

2 March 90

MINUTES

First Meeting of the Council of HUGO  
3 December 1989, 0900-1500hrs  
The Cloister, Bethesda, MD, USA

*In attendance:*

Walter Bodmer - Vice-President  
Sydney Brenner  
Charles Cantor  
Francis Collins  
Malcolm Ferguson-Smith  
Leroy Hood  
Jean-Louis Mandel  
Kenichi Matsubara - Vice-President  
Victor McKusick - President  
Andrei Mirzabekov  
Lennart Philipson  
Edwin Southern  
Glauco Tocchini-Valentini  
Ronald Worton

*Non-voting:*

George Cahill - Treasurer  
Mary Lyon - Mouse Gene Mapping Committee  
Robert Sparkes - HGMW Committee  
John Tooze - Secretary

*Observers:*

Diane Hinton  
Bronwen Loder  
Walter McEvelly - Lawyer  
Joanna Strayer  
Valentina Tsitovich

*Absent from meeting:*

Jean Dausset - Vice-President  
Kay Davies  
Frank Ruddie  
Nobuyoshi Shimizu

New Council Members and Brief Review

Victor McKusick opened the first meeting of the Council of HUGO announcing that HUGO was incorporated in Switzerland and in the state of Delaware and had a membership of 219, not including the 1989 election. He then reviewed the results of the 1989 Council election (Appendix 1). The 18-member Council comprises of the 9-member Executive Committee (President, 3 Vice-Presidents, 5 Elected Members) set up in Montreux in September 1988, 6 members elected in a general election in September 1989 and 3 members elected in a special ballot for co-option to the Council. In the future, in accordance with the Articles and By-Laws of Association, 6 Council members will rotate off the Council

each year, replaced by 4 members to be elected in a general election and 2 co-opted by these 4 and the remaining 12 Councilors. Also on this special co-option ballot, it was voted unanimously that chairpersons of the standing committees, if not already members of the Council, should be *ex officio*, non-voting members of the Council.

#### Review of US Incorporation

Walter McEvilly from the law firm Prickett, Jones, Elliott, Kristal & Schnee reported on the progress of incorporation in the United States. Incorporation in the US was necessary if HUGO was to qualify as a non-profit organization for private donors. On November 3rd the Certificate of Incorporation was filed in Delaware registering The Human Genome Organisation, Inc. as a non-profit, tax-exempt organization (Appendix 2). Additional papers (Appendix 3) must be approved by the Council to complete the registration. HUGO must also file with the IRS for tax-exempt status.

The US articles and by-laws parallel the Swiss documents except for minor differences. Walter Bodmer stated that the Swiss documents should be the primary articles and by-laws; other versions are filed for formality's sake. The Council was reassured that additional incorporations should not affect government donations.

The Council unanimously adopted the US incorporation.

#### Election of New Members

Victor McKusick reviewed the election of new members (Appendix 4). Lennart Philipson pointed out that EMBO's policy is not to take more than 50% of those nominated. Sydney Brenner suggested that there was a logical gap in the vote distribution between 49 and 36. It was unanimously agreed to elect to membership in HUGO those persons receiving 49 or more votes. The 20 new members are: Martin Bobrow (UK), Carlo Croce (USA), Beverly Emanuel (USA), Ronald Evans (USA), Jean-Louis Guenet (France), Peter Harper (UK), Claudine Junien (France), David Lipman (USA), Wesley McBride (USA), Barbara Migeon (USA), Benno Müller-Hill (FRG), Richard M. Myers (USA), Susan Naylor (USA), Susan Povey (UK), Stephen Reeders (USA), Larry Shapiro (USA), Nancy Simpson (Canada), Hamilton Smith (USA), Anne Spence (USA), David Ward (USA).

It was a consensus that it will be helpful in each election to have a brief cv of the person nominated, together with a statement of contributions and achievements, available to the voters. It was felt that this should be a responsibility of the Secretary.

#### Treasurer's Report and Fund Raising

George Cahill reported on the status of HUGO's budgets (Appendix 5). HHMI is currently giving HUGO office space with telephone in The Cloister and has supported several meetings and has provided personnel. Various private US corporations may also be interested in supporting HUGO.

Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is favorably disposed toward funding HUGO, but wishes to have a clearer indication of its program.

The US government is interested in funding HUGO provided there is funding from other countries too.

Sutherland, Tocchini-Valentini, and Worton have stated that Australia, Italy, and Canada, respectively, are interested in supporting HUGO. Some countries are concerned that their monetary contributions to HUGO will not directly benefit their interests. This creates a problem, but it was agreed that HUGO's Council controls program and monetary decisions.

Walter Bodmer reported that the ICRF has also supported HUGO through meetings, legal costs, and personnel and there is interest elsewhere in the UK and Europe.

The Wellcome Trust is interested in funding the European office of HUGO in London.

Matsubara reported that the increased friction between Japan and the US has not helped his efforts to obtain money from the Japanese government. HUGO is not recognized as tax exempt in Japan and therefore it is difficult to get funding from private corporations. Incorporation in Japan would take 1-1.5 years. Matsubara requested support from the HUGO Council for his efforts and suggested that if HUGO "assigned" responsibilities to Japan (e.g., specific meeting(s)), he and his colleagues could file the appropriate applications with the government. A resolution that HUGO is committed to establishing an international office in Japan that will serve the needs of the Pacific rim was unanimously supported.

Bodmer suggested that HUGO might benefit from a treaty organization similar to the EMBC (European Molecular Biology Conference). Erich Bloch at the National Science Foundation suggested trying to put HUGO on the agenda for the upcoming Economic Summit conference. For this, HUGO must have a program.

Jean-Louis Mandel reported that the French government is favorable towards funding HUGO.

Tocchini-Valentini reported that the Italians will give money, most from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They have a problem with putting money in a private company and want another country to go first.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the possibility of setting up a HUGO office in Moscow. This might be the best way to overcome currency problems between East and West. Concerns about endorsing another office included avoiding nationalistic division by having too many offices and defining the functions of the current offices. UNESCO is eager to support genome activities, especially in the USSR. HUGO cannot have financially autonomous offices, however, and any funding to a HUGO office from UNESCO or other sources must be controlled by the Council for the Corporation. A resolution that HUGO will be open to establishment of additional offices in the future was passed unanimously.

The organizational structure of HUGO was then briefly discussed, with the suggestion that HUGO should look towards employing an Executive Director.

George Cahill received unanimous Council approval to authorize the Treasurer to set up bank accounts in HUGO's name in the US. He will make sure the bank has suitable international capabilities.

It is important that HUGO follow-up all possibilities for funding (especially Wellcome Trust and HHMI) with written proposals.

#### Election of Officers (effective January 1, 1990)

Nominations were received for two candidates for president: Walter Bodmer and Charles Cantor. A written ballot was tallied: 2 blank, 9 for Bodmer, 3 for Cantor. Walter Bodmer was elected President of HUGO.

Ferguson-Smith proposed that Victor McKusick be recognized for his efforts as the Founder President of HUGO and be accorded this title. The was unanimously adopted.

Nomination for Vice-President included: Cantor, Collins, Mandel, Matsubara, and Mirzabekov. Worton was also nominated, but he declined. The vice-presidents elected were: Cantor, Matsubara and Mirzabekov.

George Cahill was unanimously re-elected treasurer.

John Tooze requested that he be relieved of the office of Secretary. Bodmer proposed Bronwen Loder for this office. Bronwen left the room and considerable discussion ensued regarding the responsibilities and function of the Secretary. It was decided that initially the Secretary should evaluate the requirements necessary to support the organizational structure and functions of HUGO and put forth to the Council such a proposal. This position would last for 1 year with an option to renew. The Treasurer will negotiate the salary. When the funding for HUGO is set, it may be desirable to restructure the Secretariat and hire an Executive Director. The Secretary will interact closely with the Executive Committee composed of the President and 3 Vice-presidents. Bronwen Loder was unanimously elected.

Discussion among the Vice-presidents resulted in the following terms of office: Mirzabekov 1 year, Matsubara 2 years, Cantor 3 years.

Brenner, Hood, and Southern volunteered for 1 year terms on the Council starting Jan. 1990. The rest of the Council "drew" lots resulting in the following:

- 1 year - Brenner, Collins, Hood, Ruddle, Southern
- 2 years - Dausset, Davies, Mandel, Shimizu, Worton
- 3 years - Bodmer, Ferguson-Smith, McKusick, Philipson, Tocchini-Valentini

#### Standing Committees' Reports

Charles Cantor reported that the Physical Mapping committee met once at Cold Spring Harbor (Appendix 6). The sub-committees set up then have not yet turned in reports. They need funds to get together and meet. The Council was in favor of funding such meetings, when HUGO gets some funds. There is a need to integrate physical and genetic mapping. This might be best accomplished by working chromosome by chromosome closely coordinating with the HGM Workshops.

Robert Sparkes reported that Human Gene Mapping Workshop (Appendix 7) is gearing up for HGM10.5 and 11, but its long term future is uncertain. The HGMW Executive Committee needs money to meet to discuss the role and viability of such meeting in the future. Again, the Council was in favor of funding such a meeting when HUGO has funds available. Walter Bodmer reported that they are working towards establishing a continuously updatable, relational database for the Workshop. He is collaborating with the Genome Database (GDB) in Baltimore. In an effort to further coordinate the physical and gene mapping, Charles Cantor is now a member of the HGMW Executive Committee. Sparkes was requested to put together a proposal detailing how the HGMW Executive Committee would function relative to HUGO. This report will be submitted to the HUGO Council for approval.

Mary Lyon reported that the Mouse Mapping Committee met once in Oxford (Appendix 8). The Mouse Mapping Workshops have been held annually for the last 3 years. The mouse mapping community currently has databases and newsletters to disseminate their information. They request funds to maintain the database and have meetings. The mouse mappers are concerned that they are under-represented in the HUGO membership and Council. Lyon was requested to submit a proposal similar to that of the HGMW committee to HUGO's Council.

Philipson reported that the Database committee (Appendix 9) is still not yet fully constituted. There needs to be some consensus on the European constituents. He stressed that the data must be widely available, free from nationalistic interests. HUGO must attempt to bring together the various national committees that already exist. HUGO should focus its efforts on data management and information analysis in general, and its database committee should have broad representation. It was unanimously voted that Leroy Hood should chair the Informatics Committee (formerly Database Committee) and work with the Executive Committee of HUGO to establish the committee's composition.

#### Meeting Schedule

The next HUGO Council meeting will be held at Cold Spring Harbor between May 2-6, 1990 (probably May 3rd in the afternoon). Another meeting was tentatively planned for sometime around HGM10.5, Sept. 6-10, 1990.

It was suggested that HUGO's general assembly could meet during the International Congress of Human Genetics, October 6-12, 1991.

It was unanimously agreed to support John Collins' proposal (Appendix 10) from the FRG to hold a meeting in Germany.

It was also unanimously agreed to support, in name, the proposal from Chile.

#### Miscellaneous

Ronald Worton expressed concern regarding Diane Hinton's role in HUGO. Diane left the room and, after considerable discussion, it was unanimously decided that Cantor and Hood would talk with Dr. Cowan at HHMI regarding the possibility of retaining Diane and that Diane should put together a job description.

Walter Bodmer proposed setting up an "ethics" committee. It was unanimously agreed that Victor McKusick would chair this committee.

#### Relationship to Other Organizations

It was the consensus of the Council to treat all outside organizations (e.g., UNESCO, Co-Data) equally. In these dealings, HUGO should be careful to maintain its unique identity.

As there was no other business, the President adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.